

Weekly Police Beat for the week ending August 4, 2017

Thief Found Guilty of Crime Committed in 2014

Power Tools Stolen from Garage on W. Irving Street

At about 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, the resident of a home on W. Irving Street between Connecticut Avenue and Magnolia Parkway was working in his detached garage behind the house. The resident returned to the house for a few minutes leaving the overhead door of the 2-car garage open; the garage is fully visible from the street.

From inside the house, the resident watched as a silver Dodge Durango SUV with Maryland tags backed into the driveway, then backed completely inside the open garage. Two black males in their 30's wearing dark clothing got out of the SUV, stole two power saws that were hanging inside the garage, and quickly drove off. The alert resident was able to record the tag number of the SUV.

The resident called the police and Village officers responded right away. Sgt. Tiedemann of the Village Police Department processed the scene and located a latent fingerprint on a tool that was handled by one of the thieves. Police later learned that the fingerprint belonged to a known criminal, and as a result, a Montgomery County Police detective obtained an arrest warrant for Mr. Thavorn Hart of Baltimore County, Maryland.

After avoiding law enforcement for many months, Mr. Hart was arrested and held in jail pending today's (August 3, 2017) trial date. After nearly three years since the crime, Mr. Hart pled guilty today to theft. He was sentenced to 11 months in jail with 9 months suspended. The court ordered Mr. Hart to pay restitution to the Village resident from whom he stole, and if he fails to repay the victim, Mr. Hart will serve the remaining 9 months of his sentence.

The Village Police Department is grateful to the alert homeowner in this case who had the presence of mind to get the tag number of the thief's SUV, to immediately call the police, and to diligently show up for each scheduled court hearing. Without our citizen witness, we would not have been able to successfully prosecute this crime.

Residents are urged to keep their homes locked, to activate their alarm systems, and to contact the police immediately if they see or hear anything that makes them suspicious.